



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY DRILL SERGEANT SCHOOL
3225 MAGRUDER AVENUE
FORT JACKSON, SC 29207

ATZJ-DSS

MEMORANDUM FOR Drill Sergeant Candidates

SUBJECT: Welcome Letter

1. As the Commandant of the United States Army Drill Sergeant School, congratulations on your selection to attend the Drill Sergeant course. Being selected to become a Drill Sergeant is a true testament of your excellence in past performance and potential enabling you to become a role model and trainer for Initial Entry Training (IET) Soldiers.
2. Your course of instruction will be challenging, exciting, and meaningful. We operate the school under the basic concept that you are proud Soldiers; proud to be here and proud to return to your parent unit applying this concept. We will emphasize the individual dignity of every Soldier. The objectives here are designed to further develop your confidence, responsibility, leadership techniques, and higher personal and professional standards. Ultimately, we will teach you the standards expected of Noncommissioned Officers performing Drill Sergeant duties.
3. Your attitude, hard work, use of available time, and cooperation with other students and the staff are significant factors in determining your degree of success and professional improvement.
4. The standards of the Drill Sergeant School are high. We expect you to have a positive attitude, be personally committed to succeed here, and obtain a mastering of the "how" of what we teach. Upon graduation, you will be assigned as a Drill Sergeant in an Initial Entry Training Unit.
5. When arriving to Fort Jackson, all students must go to the Welcome Center, located on 4394 Strom Thurmond Blvd and sign for a room.
6. The first formation for incoming students is 0800hrs on the report date listed in ATRRS (a link to ATRRS can be found in AKO under Self Service, My Education). The location for the formation is in the front of the United States Drill Sergeants School on Magruder AVE BLDG 3225. You must bring your Military ID Card, ID Tags (no exceptions) and a black ink pen.
7. In-processing will begin immediately following the formation. Ensure that you have the following items:
 - a) Two copies of your TDY orders or DD Form 1610.
 - b) Two copies of your Mental Evaluation (MEDCOM FORM 699-R no later than 6 months)
 - c) Two copies of your Commanders Checklist (Dated JULY 2008 no later than 120 days)
 - d) Two copies of your ERB (no later than 30 days)
 - e) It is highly recommended you bring your personal or Army issued Laptop
 - f) Students will possess a government travel card if not you will be paying out of pocket for lodging for the duration of the course.
 - g) Complete and bring the Global Assessment Tool (GAT) at <https://www.sft.army.mil>.

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- h) Authentic Happiness (VIA) <http://www.authentic happiness.sas.upenn.edu/> (have to register to complete, take the VIA Strength of Character Strengths survey) and bring completed assessment.
8. You must have all your paperwork to be enrolled in the course. The USADSS students guide can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.jackson.army.mil/units/drill/index.html>
9. The Drill Sergeant School is not a Noncommissioned Officer Education School. Therefore, the height and weight requirements for NCOES do not apply. You must meet HT/WT standards to be accepted in the course.
10. You are welcome to join the USADSS Facebook page for past, Present and future Drill Sergeants.
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-US-Army-Drill-Sergeant-School/445241370286?ref=ts>
11. If you have any questions concerning the school visit the USADSS website at <http://www.jackson.army.mil/sites/school/pages/127/Drill-Sergeant-School> or you can call DSN 734-6232/6011 and Commercial (803) 751-6232/6011. Or write to the following address:
DSS2@conus.army.mil



TERESA L. KING
CSM, USA
Commandant